

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A device for supporting a heart having left and right ventricles separated by an interventricular septum, the device comprising:

a first external, flexible element configured to be placed around at least a portion of the heart of a patient, and

~~an internal support member~~ a flexible strap configured to be received within one of the left and right ventricles and against the interventricular septum, said ~~internal support member~~ flexible strap being coupled to said first external, flexible element.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said first external, flexible element further comprises a mesh comprised of intersecting fabric elements.

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said external, flexible element further comprises a mesh comprised of intersecting polymeric elements.

4. Canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 4, wherein said strap is adjustable to allow adjustable application of pressure to the heart.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 further comprising multiple internal support members, each internal support member being formed as a flexible strap coupled to said first external, flexible element.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said first external, flexible element is configured to ~~overly~~ overlie only a portion of one of said ventricles and said internal support member includes a first portion configured to lie against the interventricular septum in the other of said ventricles and a second portion configured to extend through said one ventricle and connect with said first external, flexible element.

8. (Currently Amended) A device for supporting a heart having left and right ventricles separated by an interventricular septum, the device comprising:

an external, flexible mesh element to be placed around at least a portion of the heart of a patient,

~~an internal support member~~ a flexible strap configured to be received within one of the left and right ventricles and against the interventricular septum, ~~said internal support member~~ flexible strap being coupled to said external, flexible mesh element,

wherein said external, flexible mesh element is configured to ~~overly~~ overlie only a portion of one of said ventricles and said ~~internal support member~~

flexible strap includes a first portion configured to lie against the interventricular septum in the other of said ventricles and a second portion configured to extend through said one ventricle and connect with said external, flexible mesh element.

Claim 9 canceled.

Claim 10 canceled.

Claim 11 canceled.

Claim 12 canceled.

Claim 13 canceled.

Claim 14 canceled.

Claim 15 canceled.

Claim 16 canceled.

Claim 17 canceled.

Claim 18 canceled.

Claim 19 canceled.

Claim 20 canceled.

Claim 21 canceled.

Claim 22 canceled.

Claim 23 canceled.

Claim 24 canceled.

Claim 25 canceled.

Claim 26 canceled.

Claim 27 canceled.

Claim 28 canceled.

Claim 29 canceled.

Claim 30 canceled.

Claim 31 canceled.

Claim 32 canceled.

Claim 33 canceled.

Claim 34 canceled.

Claim 35 canceled.

Claim 36 canceled.

37. (Original) A method of supporting a heart having left and right ventricles separated by an interventricular septum, the method comprising:

placing an external support element around an external surface of the heart adjacent at least one of the left and right ventricles,

placing an internal support element within the other of the left and right ventricles and against the interventricular septum,

adjusting the force of the external support element against the external surface of the heart by way of an adjustable connector on at least one of the internal and external support elements, and

retaining the internal and external support elements on the heart at the adjusted force.

Claim 38 canceled.

Claim 39 canceled.

Claim 40 canceled.

Claim 41 canceled.

Claim 42 canceled.

Claim 43 canceled.

Claim 44 canceled.

Claim 45 canceled.

Claim 46 canceled.

Claim 47 canceled.

Claim 48 canceled.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 1, further comprising~~ A device for supporting a heart having left and right ventricles separated by an interventricular septum, the device comprising:

a first external, flexible element configured to be placed around at least a portion of the heart of a patient,

an internal support member configured to be received within one of the left and right ventricles and against the interventricular septum, said internal support member being coupled to said first external, flexible element,

a second external, flexible element coupled to said first external, flexible element, wherein said first external, flexible element is configured to be placed around at least a portion of said left ventricle and said second external, flexible element is configured to be placed around at least a portion of said right ventricle, said first external, flexible element, second external, flexible element and said internal support member thereby giving independent support to said left and right ventricles, and

at least one tensile member configured to extend through the left ventricle to provide additional support thereto.

50. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein said first and second external, flexible elements further comprise strap members.

51. Canceled.

52. (New) A device for supporting a heart having left and right ventricles separated by an interventricular septum, the device comprising:

a first external, flexible support element configured to be placed around at least a portion of the heart of a patient, and

at least one tensile member connected to said first external flexible support element and configured to extend through the left ventricle to provide additional support thereto.

53. (New) A method of supporting a heart having left and right ventricles, the method comprising:

placing an external support element around an external surface of the heart,

placing an internal tensile member within the left ventricle, and

coupling the internal tensile member to the external support element in tension to provide support to the heart.